SNS COLLEGE OF NURSING
Saravanampatti Coimbatore -35

B.Sc Nursing – III year
Nursing Research and Statistics

Unit –III Review of literature

INTRODUCTION

The literature review is an integral part of the research process and an account of what is **already known about a particular phenomenon**.

The main purpose of literature review is to convey **to the readers about the work already done** and the knowledge and ideas that have been already established on a particular topic of research.

DEFINITION

A literature review is an assessment of a body of research that **addresses a research question.**

An organized written presentation of what has been published on a topic by the scholars.

(**Burns and Grove, 2005).**

An Account of what has been published by accredited scholars and researchers. (**Taylor, 2011)**

Characteristics of a Good Quality Review of Literature

- A good review of literature must be comprehensive.
- It should include up-to-date references.
- It should be systemic.
- should be reproducible.
- It should be free from bias.
- It should be well written.

- It should be in the form of sum of its parts.
- It should be clearly searched and selected.
- Accurate references should be given in the review.

Factors Affecting Review of Literature

- **Researcher's Background –**

  An experienced researcher finds it easy to prepare a review of literature than a beginner.

- **Complexity of the research project –**

  It is easy to collect review of literature for simple and easy research projects than complex ones.

- **Availability of resources –**

  Availability of resources like computer, internet facility, online and offline journal subscription makes it easy to prepare a good review of literature.

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Study time frame

To conduct a relevant review of literature sufficient time is needed

Availability of support system-

If there are many research scholars involved in the research then a good review of literature can be gathered.

Purpose of Review of Literature

- It helps to identify what is **already known** about a research problem.
- It helps to build on **previous knowledge.**
- Many published research studies contain **recommendation for future research**, from which we can get idea for a new research study.
- It makes researcher know what research has already **been done in a particular area** so as to avoid duplication.
- It is necessary to **narrow the problem to be studied.** Identify questions a body of research does not answer

Contd…

- It helps researcher to get acquainted with the relevant theory, strategies, tools and instruments for conducting the research.

- It helps to understand the different ways of conducting the research study.

- It helps to identify comparative data so helps in interpretation and discussion of previous study.

Types of Review of Literature

- **Traditional or Narrative Review of Literature**

This type Critique and summarize literature to draw conclusion about a topic.

Systemic Review of Literature –

This method uses more well defined approach, mainly used for making a complete list of all published and unpublished studies relating to a particular topic.

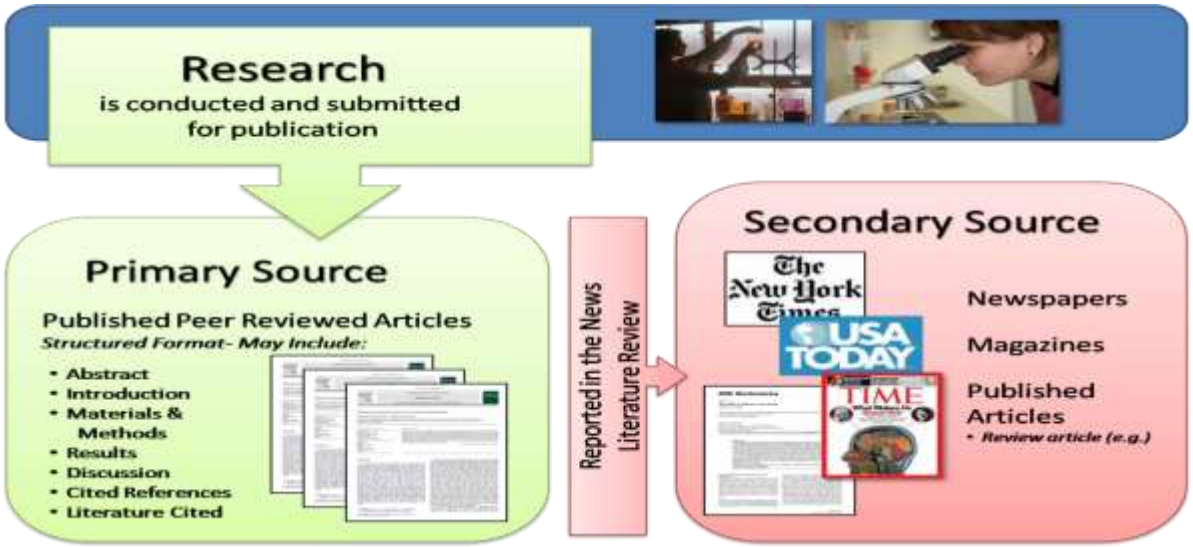
Meta Analysis • This type of review takes large quantitative findings and conducts a statistical analysis to integrate those findings enhance understanding.

Meta Synthesis This is a non-statistical method used to integrate and evaluate and interpret the findings of multiple similar quantitative studies, to identify the common elements.

Sources of review

Literature can be reviewed from two main sources

- Primary source
- Secondary source



Sources of review

A. Primary source

- Research publications written by the person or people who conducted the research/ theorists who developed the theory

Ex: Primary source ,an original experimental study of the effects of a nurse- initiated intervention for urinary incontinence:Liao,y.,Dougherty,M.,Liou,Y.,&Tseng,I.(20026).Pelvic floor muscle training effect on urinary incontinence knowledge ,atitudes, and severity .International journal of nursing studies,43(1),29-37.

Sources of review

B. **Secondary source**

- Research reports prepared by someone other than the original researcher
- Authors paraphrase the works of original researcher
- The secondary sources include the comments and summaries of multiple research studies on one topic, e.g. systemic reviews, meta-analysis, meta-synthesis, etc.

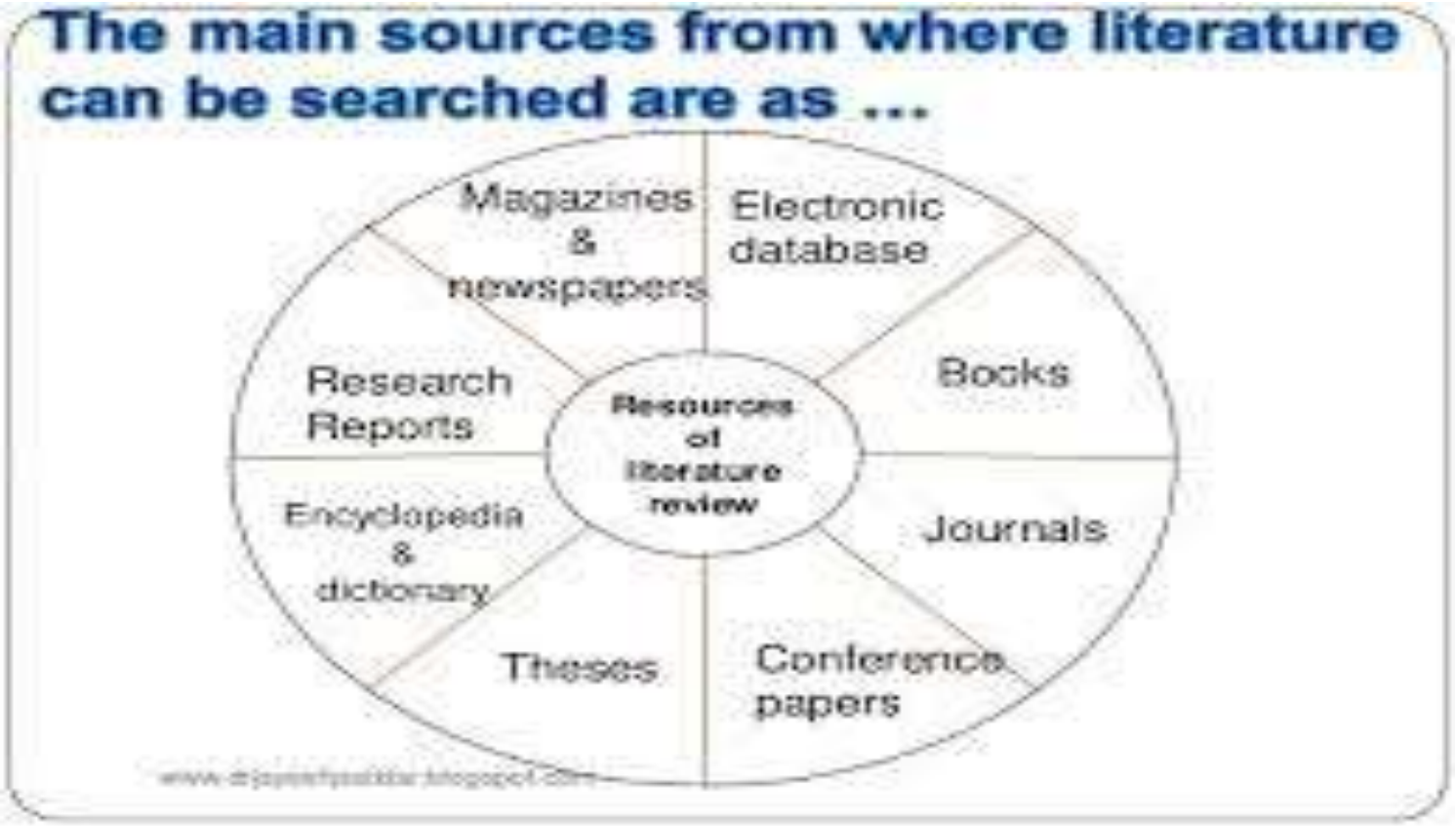
Sources of review cont

B. Secondary source

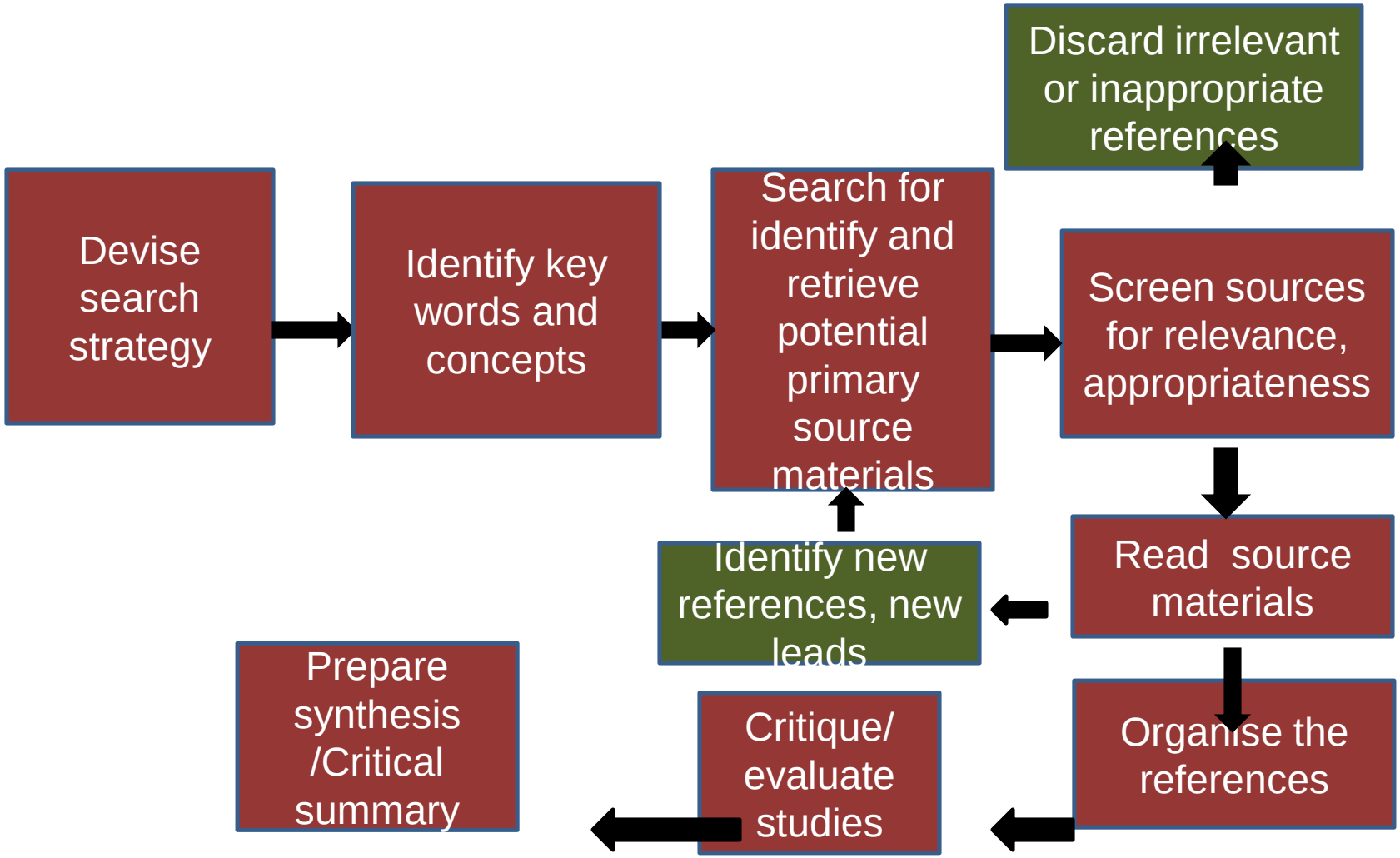
Problems:

- Writing article is subjective – influenced by the author's perception and bias
- Fails to provide details about study
- Secondary source is not substitute for primary source.

The main source where the literatures can be searched are as



Major steps in doing a literature review through a electronic database



Search strategy approaches

1. **Bibliographic databases-** Searching for references through bibiliographic database
2. **Ancestory approach(footnote** chasing) – use the citations from relevant studies & track down earlier research upon which the studies are based.
3. **Decendancy approach** – search forward in citation indexes to find recent studies
4. **Grey literature** – refers to studies with limited distribution (conference papers, unpublished reports, dissertations)

Develop a search strategy

- Written search strategy saves time .
- It helps to
  - avoid going back along paths you have already searched
  - retrace your steps
  - search new paths
- Initial search should be wide & later narrow the focus of search

Select database to search

- A bibliographical database is a compilation of citations relevant to a specific discipline or from a variety of disciplines. Several commercial vendor(,Ovid,Ebsco Host)offer information retrieval services.
- Three distinct types
  - Indexes & abstracts
  - Full text reprint services
  - Link citations
- Data bases
  - Printed form
  - Electronic data base

Electronic Database for Nurse Researchers

- CINAHL (Cumulative Index to Nursing and Allied Health Literature)
- Pubmed
- MEDLINE (Medical Literature Online)
- ISI (Institute for Scientific Information Web of Knowledge)
- British Nursing Index- Nursing and Allied Health Source (ProQuest)
- Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews
- HaPI (Health and Psychological Instruments Database)
- Dissertation Abstracts Online

CINAHL (Cumulative Index to Nursing And Allied Health Literature)

- Contains citations of nursing literature published after 1955
- Referred as “Red Books” by nursing scholars
- Covers English language, Nursing and Allied Health journals, books, book chapters, dissertations & selected conference proceedings
- Electronic version contains database from 1982 to the present (more than one million records)
- Accessed online http://www.cinahl.com or by CD-ROM

MEDLINE (Medical Literature Online)

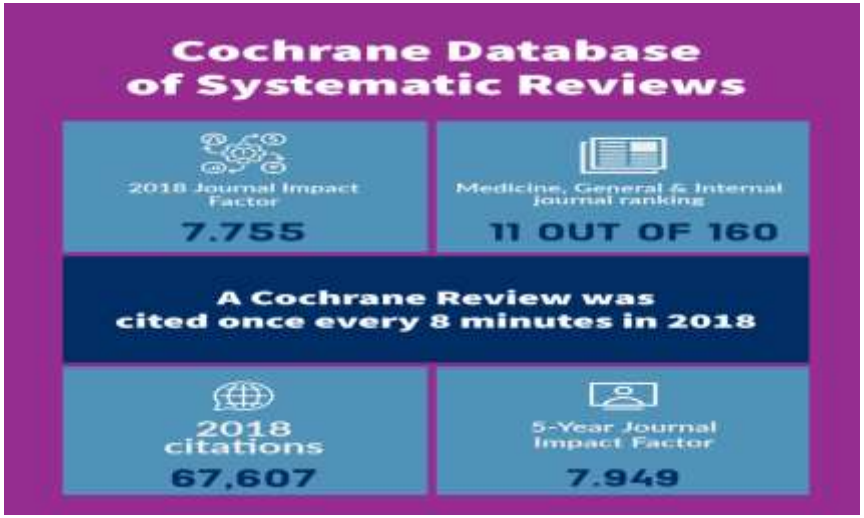
- Developed by US National Library of Medicine (NLM) – Free access
- Covers about 5000 Medical, Nursing and Health journals
- 15 million records from mid 1960's
- From 1999, Abstracts of Cochrane collaboration became available
- Is an online database with free access through PubMed web www.ncbi.nlm.gov/entrez/query.fcgi

ISI(Institute of scientific Information Web of knowledge)

- Maintains multidisciplinary resources called the web of knowledge
- Offers integrated searching
- Covers most fields of social & applied sciences including medicine and nursing

Other Databases

- Cancer Lit
- Cochrane database of systematic review
- Dissertations abstract online
- Psych Info
- Ovid sp
- Science direct



Select key words

- Mapping is a feature that allows you to search for key topics using your own words ,rather than needing to enter a term that is exactly the same as a subject heading.
- Key words are the major concepts or variables that must be included in your search
- To determine the key words, identify concepts, variables, population, interventions, measurement methods or relevant outcomes
- Subject headings and phrases can be used
- Think of alternative terms (synonyms)
- Note down the key words in the written search plan

Select key words cont

- Truncating words allow to locate more citations related to the term
- Do not truncate terms to less than four letters – will give unwanted references
- Pay attention to variant spellings
- Frequently cited author's name can be used to perform search
- Use a journal title in case of well known journal in that particular topic/field

Screening the references

References that have been identified through the literature search need to be screened for

- Is the references readily accessible in readable language ,easy to retrieve.
- To screen the relevance of the reference through reading the abstract.
- To screen the quality of evidence the study yields(methodological quality).

Organization of literature review

- A literature review is organized by subtopic, not by individual references.
- Typically, discussion of each sources is quite brief. The contribution the present reviewers make is organizing the ideas from the sources into a cogent argument or narrative that includes their perspectives.
- The reviewer should focus on citing the material that originates with each reference. This may require a careful reading of the reference. If the reference author refers to another source whose ideas are relevant or interesting, it is better to track & use that original reference.

Documenting the retrieved literature

- **Record your search strategies and search results using note of the following informations .**
  - ❖Name of databases used
  - ❖Exclusion & inclusion criteria used
  - ❖Date of performing search
  - ❖Exact search strategy used
  - ❖Key words used
  - ❖Combining strategies used
  - ❖Number of articles found
  - ❖Percentage of relevant articles
  - ❖Websites visited & links pursued
  - ❖Authors contacted for further information
  - ❖Develop a table of record and save it in the computer

Documenting the retrieved literature cont

- Literature review are often complex ,there are two mechanisms(literature review matrices) in recording key pieces of information from each study
  - ➢Methodological matrix
  - ➢Result Matrix

Methodological Matrix

A.Methodological Matrix:

Author	Pub Yr	Country	Theory	Independent Variable	Dependent Variable	Study design	Sample size	Sampling method	How data are collected	Age of children

- Table provides quick over view of recordings key methodological features of studies for a literature review: nurse characteristics and management of children's pain

Result Matrix

- B.Result Matrix:

Author	Pub Yr	dependent Variable a)Pain perception	Dependent Variable b)Use of analgesics	Dependent Variable c)Use of non pharmacological measures	Dependent Variable d)others

- Table provides quick over view of recordings key result features of studies for a literature review: nurse education and management of children's pain

Summary

- Literature reviews provide a solid background for a research paper's investigation.
- Comprehensive knowledge of the literature of the field is essential to most research papers
- Students can utilize the various sources to strengthen their research.

References

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